

SWAN HILL DISTRICT GENDER EQUITY NETWORK

Promoting Gender Equity in the Early Years

A COMMUNITY GUIDE

What is equity?

Essentially equity means a focus on fairness rather than sameness. It means to achieve a fair and just society, privilege and power needs to be more evenly distributed.

What is gender equity?

Gender equity recognises that we don't all start on a level playing field. Within all communities access to power and resources differ according to many factors, of which gender is just one.

We know that a more gender-equitable community benefits us all.

The issue of gender equity is everybody's business and everybody's responsibility. We need to work as a whole community to create a more equitable Swan Hill District and what better place to start than with our future generation!



The why

Family violence is a serious and systemic issue in Australian society, with currently one woman a week killed by her current or former partner.

Swan Hill Rural City has some of the highest rates of family violence incidents in the state. The time to act is now.

We know that gender inequality is a key driver of family violence, particularly violence experienced by women. The Swan Hill District Gender Equity Network is committed to preventing violence before it occurs, and creating a community where all people are free from the constraints of gender inequality and live healthy, happy, and productive lives. The key focus on the network is on challenging rigid gender stereotypes and roles in the early years.

What can we do?

Parents and carers play an important role in promoting gender equality and building children's resilience to rigid gender stereotypes in early childhood.

Early childhood is a crucial time to influence gender roles and stereotypes as these are developed from an early age.

Ways to promote gender equality to children:

- by reading gender neutral books. See the gender neutral book list on the next page from Respect Victoria.
- Supporting a range of activities for both girls and boys.
- Be aware of gender marketing of toys that may influence preferences as children grow older.
- Role-playing, story telling and games
- Having conversations with children around gender.



Children's Books

Parents, Grandparents, Carers, Community members and Services can choose books with children that promote boys and girls as equals. Here are some great examples.

Ada Twist by Andrea Beaty
Amazing Babes by Eliza Sarlos and Grace Lee
Axle Annie by Robin Pulver
Be Who You Are by Todd Parr
Bold Australian Girl by Jess Black
Cactus Annie by Melanie Williamson
Crusher is Coming by Bob Graham
Easy as Pie by Cari Best
Fly by Jess McGeachin
Every-day Dress-up by Selina Alko
Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees
Hunting for Dragons by Bruce Whatley
I am Enough by Grace Byers
I Could Be, You Could Be by Karen Owen
Jacob's New Dress by Sarah and Ian Hoffman
Made by Raffi by Craig Pomranz
Introducing Teddy by Jessica Walton
My Princess Boy by Cheryl Kilodavis
The Night Pirates by Peter Harris
No Difference Between Us by Jayneen Saunders
Not All Princesses Dress in Pink by Jane Yolen and Heidi Stemple
One Busy Day by Lola Schaefer
Pearl Fairweather Pirate Captain by Jayneen Sanders
Piggybook by Anthony Browne
Princess Smartypants by Babette Cole
Roadworks & Demolition (series) by Sally Sutton
Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty
Squishy Taylor (series) by Ailsa Wild
Ruby's Wish by Shirin Yim Bridges
Some Boys by Nelly Thomas
Some Girls by Nelly Thomas
The Different Dragon by Jennifer Bryan
The Underwater Fancy-Dress Parade by Davina Bell
The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch
Tina and Tom's Time Travelling Toilet by Chris 'Roy' Taylor and James A Crabtree
Tough Guys (Have Feelings Too) by Keith Negley
Two Mates by Melanie Prewett
Who Am I? I Am Me! by Jayneen Sanders
Zephyr Takes Flight by Steve Light

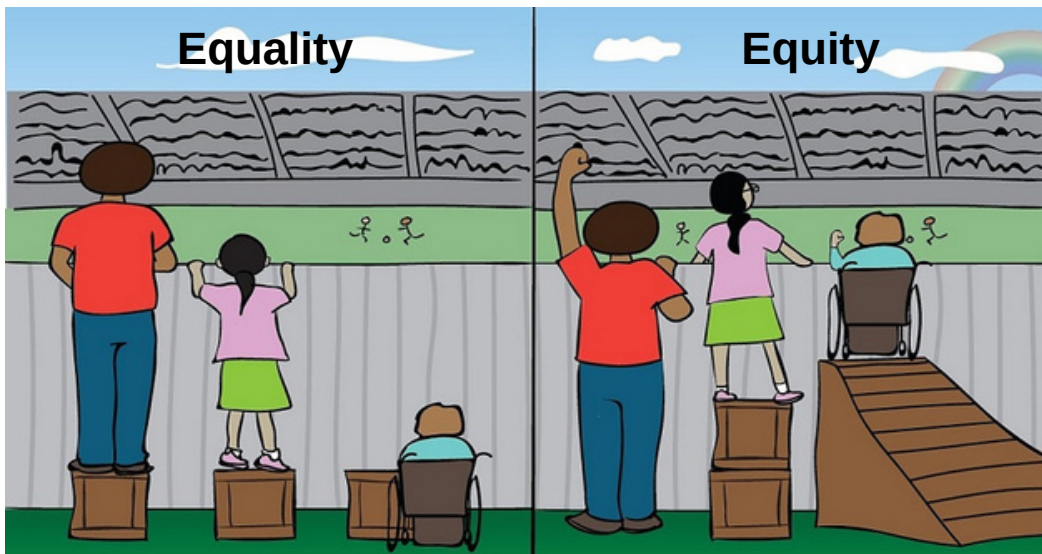


Many of the above books are available for loan at the **Swan Hill Regional Library** Service's branches in Swan Hill, Robinvale and the Mobile Library. Staff are always happy to help.
Swan Hill Library 53-67 Campbell Street, Swan Hill | **Ph:** 5036 2480 | **Website:** library.swanhill.vic.gov.au

Equity

Equity is about fairness, recognising these differences and working to correct them. Gender equity can be seen as the process, with gender equality as the outcome. To get to a place where all genders have equal access to power and resources, we must act to correct the imbalances that exist, which may require treating people differently, taking into account their starting point.

Equality vs equity



Treating everyone the same

Giving everyone what they need to achieve the same outcome

Share your feedback or comments by scanning the QR code below.



Resources & Supports



We would like to acknowledge the organisations and community members involved in the Network and thank them for their contributions in promoting gender equity in the Swan Hill District.

For more information:

1800 respect (Ph: 1800 747 732)

Respect Victoria

Gender Equity Victoria

Website: 1800respect.org.au

respectvictoria.vic.gov.au

genvic.org.au